

## MEE Video 2 Transcript

**Kelly:** This is *A Moment of Science*. I'm Kelly Ling. We know that levels of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that's linked with climate change, are increasing around the world. Scientists know that burning fossil fuels increases the levels of carbon dioxide but they wonder if deforestation could also be contributing to the increase. Today we're talking with ecologist Bryan Corey at the site of his new research study.

Bryan, we spoke with you a few months ago at the site of the Econauts' failed biodome experiment. How is the research you're doing here different from your research at the biodome?

**Bryan:** Research at the biodome was looking at a closed ecosystem where nothing got in or out. Here we're studying regional forests and their effects on the atmosphere of the whole planet.

**Kelly:** So, you're telling me that what happens here in these hills could affect carbon dioxide levels on the entire earth?

**Bryan:** Well that's right because the earth shares one atmosphere and one set of air. In fact, the air you're breathing right now, within a few weeks, could be very far away.

**Kelly:** Now, you said that you're studying the impact of regional forests but I don't see any forest here. What exactly are you studying?

**Bryan:** That's right, yeah. We're actually studying deforestation. Deforestation is when trees are cut down from a forested area. This grassland where the cattle are here used to be forested.

**Kelly:** So you can compare this site from before when it used to be a forest to how it is now?

**Bryan:** That's correct. This is a very special site because scientists have been doing research here for over 20 years so we have data on what was here before when it was a forest as well as how it looks now and the species that are found here.

**Kelly:** That was Bryan Corey, explaining his fascinating research comparing data from when there used to be a forest here to data from the current ecosystem. Bryan and his team will use that data to determine whether deforestation could impact global carbon dioxide levels.

That's all the time we have for this week's *A Moment of Science*.